REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-49 and 60-62 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 13, 22, 33, 42-49, and 60-62 being independent. Claims 50-59 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 13, 15, 18, 22-25, 29, 33-35, 38, and 42-49 have been amended, and Claims 60-62 have been added. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 9-12, 18-21, 29-32, 38-41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 53-54, and 59 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding Claims 9-12, 18-21, 29-32, and 38-41, Applicants submit that the terms IPMPS_Type and the others objected to by the Examiner have a clear meaning to those skilled in the art. In particular, as discussed at page 15, line 11 to page 16, line 24 of the specification, for example, IPMP information for MPEG-4 objects is provided using a data structure that is defined in an International Standard (ISO/IEC SC 29 IS14496-1). Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claim terms are unambiguous to those skilled in the art, who would be familiar with this international standard. The claims have been amended to recite the international standard explicitly.

Regarding Claims 43, 45, 57, and 49, Applicants submit that those claims are not dependent claims. Instead, those are independent claims directed to a storage medium for storing program codes that implement a method. A shorthand notation is used to refer to the method steps implemented by the stored program codes, by referring to a method claim reciting the method steps. Applicants submit that this shorthand notation does not create any ambiguity. The claims have been amended to further clarify that these claims are directed to a storage medium that stores program codes for implementing a method.

In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection.

Claims 1-4, 6, 13-15, 22-24, 26, 33-35, 42-50 and 58-59 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900 (Ginter et al.). Claims 5 and 25 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter et al.. Claims 7-10, 16-19, 27-30, 36-39, 51-53, and 55-57 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,372 (Lewis et al.). Claims 11-12, 20-21, 31-32, 40-41 and 54 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter et al. in view of Lewis et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,797 (Fields et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention is directed to a digital contents distribution system having a client, a digital contents server, and a roaming server coupled by a network. As recited in Claim 1 the invention includes, *inter alia*, the features wherein the roaming server includes means for receiving from the digital contents server a digital content protected by a first intellectual property right protection system, and means

for changing the intellectual property right protection system of the received digital content into a second intellectual property right protection system, wherein the second intellectual property right protection system is one required by the client or the digital contents server. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Ginter et al. discloses an information distribution system (see Fig. 1 of that patent) in which contents are distributed among users (204, 206, 208, 212, and 214), including a creator of the contents. The creator forms control information (e.g., rules and controls) for the contents and transmits it to a distributor (see, e.g., col. 56, lines 6-18). The distributor then generates control information related to usage of the contents for transmission to the users (see, e.g., column 56, lines 18-24). The control rules on usage generated by the distributor must be consistent with the rules and controls specified by the creator. However, that patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of changing the received control information from a first intellectual property rights protection system to a second intellectual property rights protection system required by a client or a digital contents server.

The other cited art does not remedy the deficiencies of Ginter et al. Lewis is cited to show encoding data of MPEG-4, and Fields is cited to show means for transmitting IP address and URL information. However, neither of those disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1.

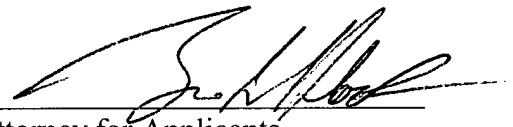
The other independent claims recite various aspects of a distribution system that includes the above-discussed features. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to anticipate or render obvious the other independent claims for reasons similar to Claim 1.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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